

## Message Text

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43

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 /018 W

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P 251312Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5768

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, IR

SUBJ: AMERICAN MEDICORP

REF: STATE 43895 AND PREVIOUS

1. WHEN EMBASSY QUERIED PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AS TO THE NEXT STEP IN GOI'S REPORTED PLAN TO PROSECUTE MEDICORP, EMBASSY WAS SUBSEQUENTLY INFORMED THAT UNDERSECRETARY FOR HEALTH, MR. MOHAMMED ASSAR, WAS RESPONSIBLE GOI OFFICER IN THE MATTER. BOTH EMBASSY AND MEDICORP KNOW MR. ASSAR VERY WELL. FOR ITS PART, EMBASSY HAS ALWAYS FOUND ASSAR A REASONABLE AND FAIR-MINDED PERSON.

2. IN TELEPHONE CONVERSATION THIS AFTERNOON (FEBRUARY 25) MR. ASSAR INFORMED ECON/COUNSELOR AS FOLLOWS: GOI FINDS THAT DELAYS ON THE PART OF MEDICORP HAS CAUSED DAMAGES TO THE GOVERNMENT IN MOVING AHEAD WITH ITS HOSPITAL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM. GOI IS THUS UNABLE TO PROCEED WITH FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS WITH MEDICORP. AS REGARDS THE LETTER OF INTENT WHICH MEDICORP HAS MAKING PROVISION FOR PAYMENT FOR WORK ALREADY DONE, GOI WILL INVITE MEDICORP TO RETURN TO IRAN FOR DISCUSSION OF MEDICORP'S CLAIM FOR \$2,150,000 FOR WORK PERFORMED. IF NO SETTLEMENT IS REACHED ON THE FIGURE FOR WORK PERFORMED, THEN GOI WILL FILE SUIT IN IRANIAN COURTS FOR ALLEGED DAMAGES TO GOI. FOREGOING WILL BE CONTAINED IN A LETTER WHICH MR. ASSAR HOPES WILL GO FORWARD WITHIN A DAY OR TWO VIA REGISTERED MAIL TO MEDICORP'S HEAD OFFICES.

3. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, ASSAR DID STATE THAT HE BELIEVES MEDICORP IS "OWNED SOMETHING." WHEN ASKED IF THERE WAS ANY RISK

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OF MEDICORP OFFICIALS BEING PUT IN JAIL SHOULD THEY RETURN TO

IRAN FOR NEGOTIATIONS, HE LAUGHINGLY REPLIED "CERTAINLY NOT."  
AT NO TIME IN THE CONVERSATIONS DID MR. ASSAR USE THE WORDS,  
"FRAUD" OR "CONSPIRACY TO DEFRAUD" AND IT SEEMS THAT ANY GOI  
CLAIM AGAINST MEDICORP, IF SUCH INDEED IS EVER FILED, WILL BE  
FOR SUM FOR THE ALLEGED DAMAGES TO GOI.

4. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT GOI IS NOW HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS AS  
CONSEQUENCES OF THE FUROR CAUSED BY THE EARLIER ALLEGA-  
TIONS OF FRAUD. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT MEDICORP AWAIT RECEIPT  
OF GOI LETTER AND THEN MAKE ITS DECISION. EMBASSY HAS NO  
REPEAT NO REASON TO DOUBT ASSAR'S STATEMENT THAT MEDICORP OFFICIALS  
HAVE NO REASON TO FEAR IMPRISONMENT SHOULD THEY DECIDE TO RETURN  
TO TEHRAN TO NEGOTIATE A SETTLEMENT WITH THE GOI FOR WORK ALREADY  
DONE.

5. SUGGEST DEPARTMENT COMMUNICATE FOREGOING TO AMERICAN MEDICORP,  
INC.  
MIKLOS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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